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Animal Welfare Information Center

National Agricultural Library

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United States Department of Agriculture

PREPARED BY
National Agricultural Library

What is the Animal Welfare Information Center?

The Animal Welfare Information Center is part of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), which is located in Beltsville, MD. The Center was established in December 1986 as mandated by amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act*. It is the focal point for those interested in obtaining information or publications covering many aspects of animal welfare.

The Center serves many types of users. For example, it can help:

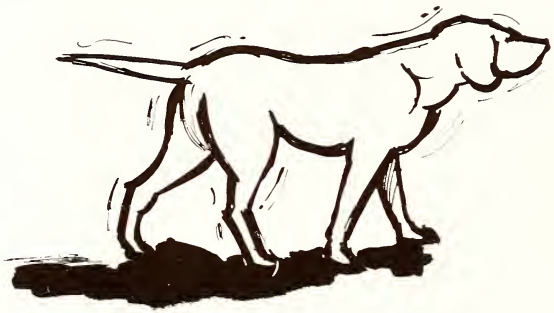
- A lab technician identify a training course on humane handling techniques for rabbits.
- A veterinarian obtain information on transporting animals in order to maintain optimal health.
- An animal care committee identify database management systems for monitoring laboratory animal care and use.
- An administrator establish training courses for institutional laboratory animal personnel.
- A researcher formulate a comprehensive literature search on the application of tissue culture as an alternative to the use of live animals.
- A private citizen obtain recent regulations and legislation relating to animal welfare.

The Animal Welfare Information Center can help these people and others interested in learning more about methods for the humane care, use, and handling of warm-blooded animals in research, testing, and education.

What Services Can the Animal Welfare Information Center Offer You?

The Information Center staff combines subject expertise, state-of-the-art technology, and networking to assist users in meeting their ever-expanding needs for information.

The staff can assist you in finding answers to specific questions or in beginning a more extensive research program. It will also:



- Assist you in accessing NAL's extensive collections on a broad range of animal-welfare-related subjects.
- Refer you to organizations or experts in the field who can provide you with additional information.
- Identify current research conducted by USDA and other research agencies.
- Furnish you with bibliographies on topics such as stress, analgesia, or animal testing alternatives or with user guides such as resource directories of databases and audiovisual training materials or a list of current journals relevant to animal welfare.
- Perform brief complimentary searches of the AGRICOLA database on specific topics of your choice, or exhaustive searches on a cost recovery basis.
- Assist you in formulating your own AGRICOLA searches if you have access to a computer terminal. For more information about AGRICOLA, request the following aids: *AGRICOLA, Getting Started on AGRICOLA,* and *Searching AGRICOLA For Animal Welfare Information*. AGRICOLA workshops also are held periodically. Brochures and training schedules are available upon request.
- Provide conference facilities and host training for small meetings of groups and organizations or individuals including the full use of audiovisual and computer equipment.
- Make available a traveling tabletop exhibit and handouts for meetings.

Document Delivery

NAL's Document Delivery Services include:

- Interlibrary loans of books through any institutional or public library.
- Photocopies of journal articles not easily found elsewhere.
- Reproduction of microforms.
- Location of books or journals that are not found in the NAL holdings.

For further details about lending services and fee schedules, request the following flyers: "Document Delivery Services to Individuals," "Document Delivery Services Available to Libraries and Other Information Centers and Commercial Organizations," and "Photocopying Facilities at NAL." You may also contact the Public Services Desk at (301) 344-3755.

Your Help Can Expand Animal Welfare Information Center Services

The Animal Welfare Information Center staff concentrates its efforts on acquiring books, periodicals, reports, audiovisuals, training materials, and other material related to animal welfare which enrich NAL's already extensive resources. You can help us to serve you and others better by:

- Contributing publications and photocopies of your latest research.
- Referring us to experts in the field.
- Recommending books or journals that should be added to the collection.
- Referring us to document collections that may be donated to NAL or which we might want to know about.
- Suggestings names of organizations which may contribute funds for special projects or which may be interested in sponsoring special events or exhibits related to animal welfare.
- Reporting to us when our services need improvement, or when you have been especially pleased with our efforts.
- Notifying us of names to be placed on the mailing list.

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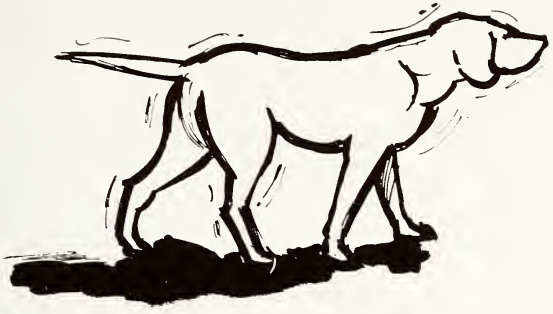

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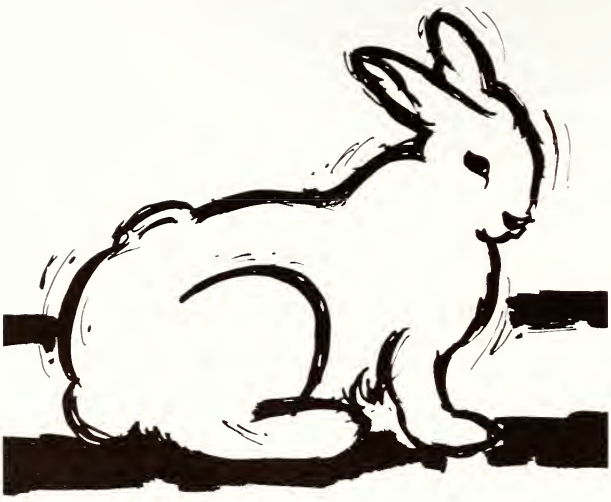

About the National Agricultural Library

- One of three national libraries in the United States.
- Largest agricultural library in the free world, with approximately 1.9 million volumes and subscriptions to 26,000 periodicals from all over the world.
- Repository for books, journals, maps, microforms, slides, films, video cassettes, and microcomputer software acquired through purchase, gift, and exchange.
- Coordinator and primary resource for a national network of State land-grant universities and USDA field libraries working together to deliver information to those with interest in agriculture and related topics.
- Producer of the AGRICOLA computerized database, which is an index to more than 2 million books and articles relating to all aspects of agriculture. One-fifth of the database is devoted to laboratory animal science, veterinary medicine, and animal production. The database is accessible through two nationwide information retrieval services and on compact disc.

For more information about the ANIMAL WELFARE INFORMATION CENTER, write or telephone:

Animal Welfare Information Center
National Agricultural Library
Room 304
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 344-3704

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